

Issue 49

April 2012



LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Message From Your LSIA President

After one of the warmest winters ever, Spring greetings to you all!

Since our fall newsletter and membership meeting, **we have been busy building on the momentum created in 2011 and are making meaningful strides toward fulfilling our association's mission of improving Lake Sarah.** Some notable accomplishments worth highlighting are:

1. **We submitted our draft Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) to the DNR in early January.** This is a required step in the journey of gaining the DNR's approval for whole-lake treatment of CurlyLeaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian WaterMilfoil (EWM), our two primary Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). While weeds provide a critical role in a well balanced lake ecosystem, these two invasive weeds are clearly dominating our native weed species, resulting in restricted boat use (due to weeds matting on the surface). In addition, the Curly Leaf Pondweed contributes to a large spike in phosphorus being released that leads to severe algae blooms during our peak summer months. Our LVMP goal is to aggressively control to greatly reduce if not eliminate these two invasive species – allowing the native vegetation to become re-established. We hope to get our LVMP approved by the DNR sometime this year.
2. **As part of our LVMP process, we proposed and received verbal approval from the DNR to move forward with a "pilot treatment" program this spring** that would allow trained volunteers from our association to treat a limited amount of CLP and EWM. The goals of these pilots are to prove out our treatment process to ensure we can do them both safely and cost effectively. It is our clear belief that by managing this process ourselves with responsible volunteers, we can ensure the timing of our treatment is under optimal conditions – and the cost of application is less than half of what professional lake applicators would charge.
3. **We sourced knowledgeable expertise via Aquatic Solutions to guide us on the best application approach,** using the most effective early season low dose herbicides available at a very cost competitive wholesale level.
4. **We held 3 educational meetings for members in February to learn of the process and form various "blocks" for treatment** this spring, and the interest for the pilot program was greater than we anticipated.
5. **We submitted our permit and variance request to the DNR in early March, along with an AIS grant application** that if successful - would fund just about half of the cost of the program. This pilot program will be paid for (net of any grant benefit) by the 65 lakeshore owners who signed up.

In summary, we are pleased to announce that on April 18th the DNR approved our permit for up to 50 acres! While we did not get the variance for additional acres approved, we want to assure everyone who signed up will still get treatment (just a slightly scaled back area).

By the Spring Membership meeting on April 26th, we expect to have completed all treatments. Whether or not you are part of the pilot program, please come to the meeting for a first hand update – and learn further as to our longer term vision for whole-lake treatments.

There is not a better time to become an active member of the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, and to personally engage in the journey we are on to noticeably improve our lake water quality - our lake community as a whole – and our lake area property values! Please consider renewing and or joining the LSIA today (membership form included in this newsletter).

On behalf of the LSIA Board, we look forward to seeing you on April 26th at the Independence City Hall!

~Joe



Water Level and Outlet Update

By Scott Walsh

As of April 17th, the lake level is estimated to be at 979.3. The DNR has not yet set the 2 gauges on the lake. Once the gauges are set Brad/Fred/Cindy will post on the www.lakesarah.com website. Hopefully our drought conditions will ease this year and bring normal precipitation. This winter has brought some of the

most unusual conditions that I have seen in the past 20 years of living on the lake. Pressure ridges, open water, and thin ice. I would like to thank Brad for keeping the lake sarah website updated and for helping us to get the word out about lake conditions. It was evident that people were staying

away from the areas he posted on the website as "thin ice". I'm sure that it helped save some lives.



Also thanks to our neighbors Joni and Dan Bauer, Jim Keefe and Jerry Evanson for their heroic and successful efforts to save a fisherman's life this winter.

Sincere thanks to you all!

Nominations Committee - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Are you or someone you know interested on serving on the LSIA board? The following positions will be open this summer:

- President
- Treasurer
- Water level/Navigation

Each board position is a 2 year service term.

LSIA is also looking for lake neighbors willing to serve on the 2012 nominations committee. The nominations committee will be tasked with identifying candidates to be presented at the July membership meeting for election. Please contact President Joe Baker or any other board member if you are willing to help.

swiftbaker@aol.com



It's That Time Again - Time to Renew Your LSIA Membership!

The new membership form is included in this newsletter, and also available online at www.lakesarah.com. Please mail in your membership form today!

Your \$35 LSIA dues help support:

- water level, water quality improvements and weed control programs
- three yearly membership meetings
- coordination of the 4th of July boat parade/decorating contest and the annual sum-

mer picnic

- three newsletters and annual membership directory
- promote safe and proper utilization of the lake

We currently have 102 paid members this year. That means we are way behind last years numbers!

Lets work toward getting that number up!

If you are interested in helping out with membership, send

Sonja an email and she will contact you.

The discount on your Randy's Service alone pays for your membership dues!

Email Sonja Tilbury:

sitjat@aol.com

with any questions, concerns, suggestions, and volunteer info!!!



Treasurer's Report

LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Financial Report as of: 4-14-2012 Submitted by LSIA Treasurer - Roger VanBeusekom				
	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2012 ACTUAL TO DATE	
Assets:				
Beginning checking 1-1-2012			\$ 5,330.21	
Beginning checking Walleye 1-1-2012			3,098.50	
21st century CD (Mature 6-18-12)			6,942.46	
21st century CD (Mature 7-27-12)			8,849.76	
21st century CD (Nature 4-18-12)			20,119.51	
Total Beginning Cash Balance:	\$ 37,543.02	\$ 44,340.44	\$ 44,340.44	
Receipts:				
Memberships-(target 200x35-2012) (A)-1-3 see below	\$ 4,830.00	\$ 5,390.00	\$ 1,960.00	
Contributions-Special	500.00	100.00		
Contributions-Clean water	995.00	1,000.00	990.00	
Contributions-Walleye Fund	725.00	1,000.00	535.00	
Fundraising-United Way	1,615.40	1,650.00	13.26	
Fundraising-Other	413.66	500.00	60.00	
Interest-checking	11.44	15.00	2.07	
Interest-CD's	211.06	100.00	74.85	
Advertising proceeds		180.00	180.00	
Total Receipts:	\$ 9,301.56	\$ 9,935.00	\$ 3,815.18	
Disbursements:				
Printing/Mailing (directory and news letters)	\$ 340.69	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 688.71	
Office Supplies		50.00		
Dues/Subscriptions		200.00		
Membership/Board meetings	80.46	100.00		
Fundraising cost-Other	277.45	250.00		
Boat Parade	175.00	200.00		
Summer Picnic	1,376.16	1,400.00		
Walleye Program (stocked in 2011 and paid in 2012)		2,000.00	1,000.00	
Clean Water Fair		100.00		
Lake Improvement Projects (tools used for clearing vegetation at our outlet)	254.38	1,000.00		
Total Disbursements:	\$ 2,504.14	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 1,688.71	
Overage / (Deficit)	\$ 6,797.42	\$ 3,635.00	\$ 2,126.47	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$ 44,340.44	\$ 47,975.44	\$ 46,466.91	
(A)-1 179 paid members in yr. 2011 of which 87 paid in Dec of 2010				
(A)-2 200 members budgeted for 2012 of which 46 -paid in Dec 2011				
(A)-3 102 paid members thus far in 2012 (still well short of our target)!				

By growing membership, and with your generous donations, we have grown our funds by \$18,000 over just the past 2 years. As you can see by our total expenditures this past year we have made great strides at minimizing administrative costs, and your emails have greatly reduced printing and mailing costs. In addition to the \$254 spent clearing the outlet, we had 178 total VOLUNTEER hours from members - making this a very inexpensive solution to last year's high water problem. Also note that we received \$180 for advertising in our directory - and we hope you utilize the great services that some of our members provide. Membership directories will be available for pick up at the Spring Membership meeting on April 26. The LSIA's financials are audited each year by a non-board member. We want to thank John Wise for his audit services! Know that the majority of our funds will likely be targeted for whole-lake AIS weed treatments over the next 3 to 5 years. If you care how we best use these funds, please come to the general membership meetings - or volunteer for the Board!

Spring LSIA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2012
6:30 PM
INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL

Theme: Pilot Program in Progress!!

AGENDA

Association social (baked goods/coffee) from 6:30-7:00pm

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Call to order (7pm) | Joe Baker |
| 2. Set Agenda | Joe Baker |
| *Anyone not on agenda may be placed under Open Topics | |
| 3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting | Jessica Fischer |
| 4. Approval of Treasurer's report and 2012 Budget | Roger Van Beusekom |

Reports of Active Committees:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 5. Membership Report - "It PAYS to be a member!!" | Sonja Tilbury |
| 6. Lake level / Outlet / Public Access | Scott Walsh |
| 7. Water Quality – Pilot Program update | Joe Baker / Mark Holten |
| 8. Volunteers needed for LSIA Board and committees | |
| 9. Open topics – What more should the LSIA be doing? | |
| 10. Adjournment | |

****Annual Membership Directories will be available for pick up at the meeting****

The Loretto Creek Phosphorus Removal Project Gets Approved!

The construction of a sedimentation and water quality pond behind the Loretto ballfields this summer will directly benefit Lake Sarah by reducing phosphorus loading by an estimated 140 lbs per year. We want to both thank and congratulate the cities of Medina and Loretto for their joint teamwork and diligence in submitting a Clean Water Land and Legacy grant application for the 3rd year

in a row. In baseball terms, with an 0-2 count, they were determined not to strike out - and smashed the third pitch out of the park! For more details of the project, including a design diagram of the pond layouts, check out the following link:

<http://www.lakesarah.com/images/LorettoMedinaBallfieldGrantApp2012.pdf>

Zebra Mussels

Zebra Mussels are our newest Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threat.

Many Minnesota recreational lakes have been or soon will be infested with this non-native aquatic invasive species. Action now may delay or prevent our lake from being infested by zebra mussels. Boaters and lakeshore property owners must do everything possible to learn about this invasive and take every action possible to help reduce its spread. Please note that there is a new webpage at www.Lakesarah.com dedicated to raising awareness and education to Zebra Mussels: <http://lakesarah.com/waterquality/zebramussels.html>. We also encourage everyone to check out the link to the interactive map showing the historical spread of Zebra Mussels across the United States since first discovered in 1986. It's truly sad to see all the red dots added each year as it has spread. We want to again thank Brad Spencer for building this new webpage for our benefit, and let's each do our part to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels!



Public Access and Landing Update

By Scott Walsh

LSIA submitted a grant to the DNR for Boat Inspection at the public access for Aquatic invasive species (AIS) (specifically zebra mussels). 200 hours were requested with the DNR matching another 200 hours. Unfortunately our request was denied.

The city of Greenfield submitted a similar grant for local government units and was awarded 70 hours of inspection time by certified DNR inspectors. So look for them at the access soon.

LSIA also submitted a grant for a new and current AIS signs for the public access. The signs

were supposed to be available now, but due to extenuating circumstances, will not be available until later this summer. LSIA is considering making our own signage for the access area to keep those using landing informed about the dangers of invasive species. LSIA is also planning to build a kiosk to mount all signs. This will help to de-clutter the access and make signs more visible.

I recently took the Service Provider Training course put on by the DNR for AIS. So if anyone has any questions, feel free to email me. scottwalsh@aol.com I would hope that I can answer

most questions.

Be careful when buying used equipment and make sure that they are AIS free. They should have been cleaned properly or been out of the water for at least 21 days. Boat lifts, docks, and other equipment can unknowingly harbor zebra mussels and you could accidentally introduce them into the lake without knowing it. Let's help keep Lake Sarah free of Zebra mussels!

And finally, please inform me of any boating hazards not currently marked on the lake (rocks, logs, etc.) and I will make sure they get marked. Thanks!



**LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

LSIA
P.O Box 25
Loretto, MN 55357

We're on the web!

**Catch up on all the happenings on Lake
Sarah by checking out the website!**

www.lakesarah.com

DID YOU KNOW??

- This year was the driest Autumn in Twin Cities history (September thru November 2011) since 1871. 1.36 inches fell...the normal is 7.28 and the most is 15.75 inches in 1881
- The dry warm winter with only 22.5 inches of snow, where the average is 47.5 inches
- The all time low water level in recent history is 977.78, set on August 10th 2007
- The all time high water level in recent history is 982.40 on June 28th, 2002. Ordinary high water level for Lake Sarah is 979.9
- Weir height set by DNR is 978.80






Lake Sarah Improvement Association

2012 Membership Form

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
ZIP Code	
Lake Address (if different from above)	
Telephone	
E-Mail	

THINK GREEN!  And help reduce our printing and mailing fees!

Please check here to receive your newsletter via email (your information will be kept confidential) ☐

Annual Dues

2012 Membership Fee		\$35.00
Annual Donations	Water Quality Fund	_____
	Walleye Fund	_____
	Other	_____
	TOTAL:	_____

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:

LSIA

PO Box 25

Loretto, MN 55357

Interested in getting involved? Volunteer on one of our many committees! Check here to be contacted with more info!

Membership Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Picnic/Boat Parade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bog/Outlet Army	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishery Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Clean Up Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>

Randy's Environmental Service provides our members with a discount worth \$31.92 on a 65 gallon can and with water softener salt discounts (which vary by household) – IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

Are you a Randy's Customer? Yes ☐ No ☐

If not, are you interested in being contacted about the program? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you purchase water softening salt? Interested in learning more about the LSIA salt program? Yes ☐ No ☐

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ON LAKE SARAH!

Questions?? Concerns?? Contact Sonja Tilbury, sitjat@aol.com



The Beach Buddies

Supported By LSIA

About the Beach Buddy

The Beach Buddy is an eco-friendly solution to saving Lake Sarah. It will help get rid of the weeds in Lake Sarah that release a lot of phosphorus. It is an easy to use beach tool with a blade that digs the weeds out (possibly removing them by the roots) and tongs that catch the weeds as they are cut. We hope you'll allow us to help Lake Sarah by using this method instead of chemicals.

What We Are Doing

We will use the Beach Buddy by pulling out 2500 square feet of *submergible* weeds from the lake by your shoreline. Basically the same area as chemical treatment, but cheaper. Also, we will haul the weeds to Mel's vegetable farm on County Road 55 with our truck and trailer and he will be using the weeds as fertilizer for his vegetables. All shorelines are different so we will assess each job on site.



Side jobs we are willing to consider:

- Mowing Lawns
- Take care of pets

**Please call Josh:
612-203-3576**

Pay Rate:

- \$15 per hour per person
- \$20 to remove weeds from property
- \$35 for each use if not an LSIA member
 - *LSIA membership is \$35.00 a year
- Beach Buddies was established in 2010. We serviced 20+ on Lake Sarah in our first year of business.

My friend Sam Fillmore and I will be working as the Beach Buddies this year. We are both hard-working individuals and we never leave a customer unsatisfied.

